

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 06808 171200Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 171121Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4994
INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LISBON 6808

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PO
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION AT DECEMBER MINISTERIALS

REF: USNATO 6200 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN SELECTING MORAIS DA SILVA GOP HAS MET THE CRITERIA
ESTABLISHED IN USNATO 5409. WHETHER THIS IS CONSCIOUS DECISION
OR NOT, MORAIS DA SILVA IS PERSONALLY A MODERATE WHO HEADS THE
MOST PRO-WESTERN BRANCH OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY SERVICES.
WE CONSIDER HIM RELIABLE.

2. MORAIS DA SILVA WAS THE MAN WHO TURNED THE TIDE AGAINST
VASCO GONCALVES. HIS PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE
NINE CAME AT A STRATEGIC MOMENT AND STARTED THE GROUND SWELL
THAT LED TO GONCALVES'S OUSTER. HE SUBSEQUENTLY PURGED THE
AIR FORCE ASSMBLY OF ITS COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. MORE RECENTLY
MORAIS DA SILVA STOOD UP AT A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING
AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF RADIO RENASCENCA. WHATEVER
WE MAY THINK OF THE MEANS HE USED AND THE REPERCUSSIONS THIS
CREATED WITHIN THE PARATROOP REGIMENT, IT DEMONSTRATES QUITE
CLEARLY WHERE HIS SYMPATHIES LIE.

3. MORAIS DA SILVA IS PRESENTLY ONE OF THE PCP'S PRINCIPAL
TARGETS. HE IS STRUGGLING MIGHTILY TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE AND
ESPRIT DE CORPS IN THE AIR FORCE IN THE FACE OF CONSTANT PCP
SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN COMMUNIST PRESS.

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RECOMMEND WE TRY TO AVOID SLIGHTING HIM AT DECEMBER DPC

MINISTERIAL SINCE THIS COULD HURT HIM AND OTHER ANTI-COMMUNISTS
IN PORTUGAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON06808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750399-0924
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751137/aaaabgqx.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 NATO BRUSSELS 6200
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION AT DECEMBER MINISTERIALS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, NATO, (SILVA, MORAIS DA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006